

# **OECA Capacity Building State and Tribal Assistance Grant Program**

## **Background**

Since FY96, the Office of Compliance has received extramural monies appropriated annually for state and tribal assistance. The funds are used to enhance the capacity of states and tribes to carry out compliance assurance activities within their respective jurisdictions. The projects selected cover a wide range of activities that will enable states/tribes to demonstrate compliance assurance and enforcement outcomes from their activities while serving as models for other states/tribes.

## **Eligible Grant Recipients**

States, the D.C. of Washington, and federally recognized Indian Tribes, Intertribal Consortia, Universities, Local Governments and multi-jurisdictional State organizations are eligible to apply for and receive funds.

## **Award Process**

OECA/OC announces the availability of funds and solicits pre-proposals from applicants through a Federal Register Notice (FR). This solicitation describes in detail the funding areas and the format for the pre-proposals. Initial decisions are made based on regional and headquarters review of these preproposals and selected applicants are invited to submit full proposals.

## **Key Roles**

OECA/OC and the regions help to identify focus areas. Review teams within OECA and the regions review the pre-proposals and make recommendations for funding. OECA/OC makes funding decisions based on pre-proposals and works cooperatively with the regions in reviewing the final proposals. Award of funds and the management of the grants is the responsibility of the Regional Offices. The Office of Compliance and the Regions require grantees to submit semiannual reports. All project officers must be certified and have the necessary technical (statute) expertise.

## **Past Grant Projects**

During FY 1999 - 2000 funding cycle, monies were targeted specifically to develop and implement enhanced performance measures for state enforcement and compliance assurance programs. 11 projects were selected for funding. For the FY 2000 - 2001 funding cycles, the monies were targeted at three specific areas: (1) data quality, (2) public access and (3) performance measurement. 28 projects were selected for funding. For FY 2002, \$2.2 million was appropriated for state and tribal assistance funding. The funding areas were: (1) tribal and state inspector training, (2) program planning and performance measurement, and (3) data management. EPA selected, through rigorous competition, 16 projects out of a total of 220 submitted by states, tribes and state universities to support inspector training, performance measurement, collaborative work planning, and data management. The selected proposals totaled \$2.05 million for projects to be carried out during FY2003-2004.

## **FY 03 Grant Process**

The Office of Compliance published a FR Notice on March 28, 2003 announcing the availability of funds for FY 03. The priority areas this year were as follows: (1). environmental enforcement training and (2). supporting improved linkages between state/tribal data systems. The FY03 funding decisions were made in August, 2003 and all applicants were notified of the funding decisions. EPA selected 12 projects for funding totaling about \$1.8M. Selected grantees have until November 15, 2003 to submit their approved work plan. For more

information on this Grant Program, you may visit our web page at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/planning/state/grants/stag/index.html>.

### **New for FY 2003**

The Office of Compliance has launched a STAG web page. This web page can be found at the above link. This web page provides states and tribes the opportunity to share their results, showcase their successes, while making the environmental outcomes public. Through the display of the outcomes and results of the projects, states and tribes will be provided an opportunity to share their efforts with the hope that successful projects can be used by others. In addition, the Office of Compliance is in the process of planning its 2<sup>nd</sup> National Grant Conference in Washington, DC for the Spring, 2004. The purpose of the Conference is to provide an opportunity for grant recipients to showcase the final results and environmental outcomes of their project(s) or to demonstrate progress to date. This Conference also provides grantees with the opportunity to discuss lessons learned, network and share successes with their projects.

### **Authority**

***Delegation 1-47:*** To approve assistance agreements for activities including, but not limited to, economic, social science, statistical, and other research, development, studies, surveys, demonstration, investigations, public education programs, training, and fellowships to the extent authorized under the following Acts: CWA, Section 104; FIFRA, Section 20; CAA, Section 103, SWDA, Section 8001; SDWA, Section 1442; TSCA, Section 10; MPRSA, Section 203; CERCLA, Section 311; NEPA, Section 102(2)(F) for international awards; and Indian Environmental GAP Act.

This authority delegated to the AA for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance may be redelegated to the Office Director level, or equivalent, but no further. The authority delegated to the RA may be redelegated to the DD level, or equivalent, but no further.

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